

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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All

MEDICAID BULLETIN

TO: All Medicaid Providers

SUBJECT: Healthy Connections Choices Expansion

This notice is to inform you that the SC Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) is seeking approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to expand the *Healthy Connections Choices* care coordination program effective **October 1, 2010**. This change will require that eligible populations receive care coordination through either a Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) or the state's Medical Homes Network (MHN).

Currently, approximately 474,000 Medicaid beneficiaries are enrolled in either an MCO or the MHN. This expansion will add an additional 105,000 existing beneficiaries to the *Healthy Connections Choices* program. To ensure a smooth transition for beneficiaries and providers, the agency plans a gradual phase-in of the *Healthy Connections Choices* expansion beginning this fall. The expansion will assist in managing significant enrollment increases, which have averaged between 3,000 and 5,000 new eligibles each month. As a result, SCDHHS anticipates an extremely challenging budget year and this change will allow the agency to operate more efficiently.

All new Medicaid beneficiaries who are eligible for care coordination will be asked to choose between available plans in their county at the time of their enrollment. Beneficiaries now enrolled in traditional fee-for-service Medicaid who are eligible for care coordination will be asked to make a choice between available plans in their county at the time of their annual review. If they do not make a choice, a plan will be selected for them. Additionally, this transition period will give providers not currently affiliated with a plan the opportunity to consider their business options.

SCDHHS will be sharing additional details about the expansion in subsequent Medicaid Bulletins and will be communicating with affected beneficiaries. For further information about the existing *Healthy Connections Choices* program and health plans in your county, please click [here](#).

Thank you for your support of South Carolina's Medicaid program.

NOTE: To receive Medicaid bulletins by e-mail, please register at <http://bulletin@scdhhs.gov>
To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to the <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/hippa/index.asp> and select "Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for instructions.